Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The *West River Catholic* is the official newspaper of the Diocese of Rapid City, which covers over 43,000 square miles or half of the state of South Dakota; and,

Whereas, The first edition of the *West River Catholic* monthly publication rolled off the presses in May 1973; and,

Whereas, The *West River Catholic* is circulated every month to 13,000 homes in Western South Dakota and reaches more than 30,000 members of the Catholic Church; and,

Whereas, A celebration will take place on May 2, 2003, to honor the founding editor, Msgr. William J. O'Connell, who now serves as Associate Editor, and still writes a monthly column even though he is retired; and,

Whereas, It is fitting and proper for the Governor of the state of South Dakota to recognize the accomplishments of this valued publication and the individual who helped to found it:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 2, 2003, as

WEST RIVER CATHOLIC DAY

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-third Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State